co-operatives is engaging the attention of my Government. My Government have made representations to the Central Government to grant rebate on the purchase of coir goods as in the case of handloom and this is under the consideration of that Government. To enable the Handloom Industry to come out of its doldrums, Government of India has been requested to increase the period of rebate on the sale of handloom cloth. To help the cashew industry and the workers engaged in it, steps will be taken to maximise procurement of nuts from within the State and import from outside.

39. Major and Medium Irrigation Sector has been drawing a sizable chunk of the State's plan resources because of the emphasis placed on these valuable infrastructural assets. At present we have ten completed projects and 18 on-going ones. It will be the endeavour of my Government to complete these projects in time and contribute to the agricultural base of the State. The Kallada Project has been posed for World Bank assistance and it is expected that the assistance will materialise in the course of the year. Vigorous action will be pursued in this regard. My Government will also extend irrigation from major irrigation projects to garden lands wherever possible in the existing projects. New projects will be designed to give irrigation benefits to garden lands in addition to paddy lands.

40. Kerala has been richly endowed with hydroelectric potential. But realising that the comfortable position of being able to satisfy internal demand and, to some extent external demand, will be short-lived, we have been taking purposeful steps to tap this natural resource further. My Government have six on-going hydel projects of which four are expected to be commissioned during the Sixth Plan period. Preliminary works have been taken up in respect of four other projects. Apart from power generation, transmission and distribution have been given considerable attention. My Government will give high priority to the timely completion of the projects under execution and the distribution of electricity. Steps are under way to obtain Government of India approval for six schemes including Pooyamkutti.

41. On the labour front, my Government will strive for a climate of harmonious labour-management relationship conducive to greater industrial growth and productivity without sacrificing the legitimate claims of the workers. The claims of the workers and the welfare activities for them will receive adequate and sincere attention; at the same time unwarranted disruption of industrial peace will not be tolerated.

42. More Employment Exchanges will be opened to benefit job-seekers in rural area.

43. My Government will continue to implement the Agricultural Worker's Pension Scheme. However, the entire scheme will be reviewed to ensure that the benefits of the scheme accrue only to the deserving persons. It will also be ensured that all deserving persons do get the assistance under the scheme.

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